

## What is Claimed is:

[c1] A method of determining relevant search results for an Internet based search query having at least one search term, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing a topical category database having a plurality of topical categories;
- providing an Internet site database having Internet site information for at least one Internet site, each of the Internet sites having content;
- assigning each of the Internet site informations in the Internet site database to at least one of the topical categories in the topical category database thereby creating assigned Internet sites;
- providing a search term database having at least one search term, each of the search terms having a definition;
- assigning each of the search terms in the search term database to at least one of the topical categories in the topical category database thereby creating a search term assignment;
- receiving at least one initial search term;
- matching the initial search term with at least one of the search terms in the search term database thereby creating a matched search term;
- associating the initial search term with the topical categories that the matched search term is assigned to thereby creating associated topical categories;
- determining a most relevant associated topical category from the associated topical categories; and
- retrieving the Internet site information for each of the assigned Internet sites assigned to the most relevant associated topical category.

[c2] The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of the topical categories is defined with a title and description.

[c3] The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of assigning each of the search terms in the search term database to at least one of the topical categories in the topical category database thereby creating a search term assignment comprises assigning each of the search terms to a topical category based on the definition.

- [c4]        The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of determining a most relevant associated topical category from the associated topical categories comprises calculating the number of times each said associated topical category is selected by other searchers in association with the initial search term.
  
- [c5]        The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of determining a most relevant associated topical category from the associated topical categories comprises calculating the number of times the search term is repeated within the content of the assigned Internet sites assigned to each of the associated topical categories.
  
- [c6]        The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of determining a most relevant associated topical category from the associated topical categories comprises subjectively determining the most relevant associated topical category.
  
- [c7]        The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of retrieving the Internet site information for each assigned Internet site assigned to the most relevant associated topical category comprises the step of organizing the assigned Internet sites in a logistical order.
  
- [c8]        The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of organizing the assigned Internet sites in a logistical order further comprises organizing the assigned Internet sites based upon statistical information.